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Washington Whispers

Word reaching Washington from the Kremlin is that Russia will not officially give its approval for flights of American U-2 spy planes over Turkey to monitor Soviet missile tests—but, to help win Senate ratification of SALT II, would not raise a fuss if the U.S. conducted such flights.

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The Moscow-backed regime of Nur Mohammad Taraki in Afghanistan is doing so poorly in coping with rebels that U.S. intelligence experts now believe the Kremlin will have to send in three or four divisions of Russian troops to quell the insurrection—and then probably install a more effective puppet ruler.

A spy out in the cold? Key White House officials, in public and private comments, are taking swipes almost daily at CIA Director Stansfield Turner for what they see as his failure to support Carter on SALT verification and other issues. They want to leave the impression that Turner is little more than a technician.

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